

**May 31, 2019**

Peace and grace to you, dear co-workers in the field of the Lord, friends and relatives! We are glad to welcome you again from sunny Moldova!

May brings with it the blossoming of lilac, chestnuts, and acacia in Moldova. It is also the month when white poplar fluff whirls like a blizzard, recalling the recent winter and causing discomfort to those who are allergic to this fluff. For Nina and me, this month was full of all sorts of events. Let me share some of them.



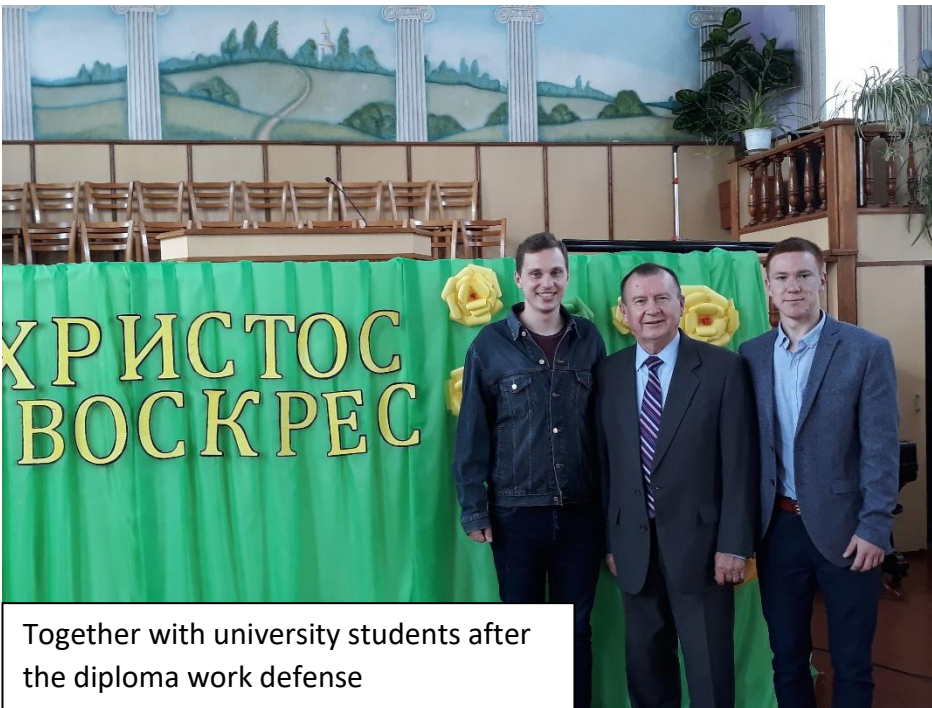
**May 2** was Nina's birthday. If this was the case in California, where most of our children and grandchildren live, then our children and grandchildren would certainly have visited us. Considering that they are away from us and can only visit us via Viber or Skype, we decided to celebrate Nina's birthday by visiting our foster grandchildren who live in Bender, in Transnistria. We went to the family of Ivan and Tatiana and

spent almost the whole day with them. And although they did not know that on the day of our arrival, Nina had a birthday, they baked a cake for our arrival. It was a pleasant surprise for us. The parents were just as happy about our visit as the children. They, too, need fellowship and someone's word of encouragement and prayer. We are sincerely grateful to God for such a gift on this special day for Nina.

From **10 to 13 May**, the Director of the Latvian Bible Center, Viktor Ivanovich Petrenko, visited Moldova, along with Andreas, who oversees distance learning at the Center. We were glad to meet with them in Chisinau and introduce them to our university.

On **May 14**, our university hosted a scientific conference on the theme: “The Challenges and Opportunities that Migration Opens for the Mission of the Church.” I participated in this conference by presenting a report on the relationship between older and

younger generations of migrants and on the challenges in the process of transferring faith by Christian parents to their children in an immigration context.



Together with university students after the diploma work defense

On **May 19**, on Sunday morning, Nina and I visited the Valley of Blessing Church in the village of Dolinnoe. We have not visited this church for a long time, and therefore we were glad to meet again with the believers in this village, to share fellowship and the Word of God during the service. I was glad to meet there some of our students who regularly attend this church during their studies at the university. One of them was preaching at the beginning of the service; I went after him.



Before the exam - a photo for memory

At the university, May is an important time for both students and teachers. This is the time of exams, time to pass term papers, and time to defend theses. On May 20th, there was an exam on my subject: Intercultural Relations in the S22 group, in which future social workers study. An interesting feature of this group is the fact that it has 20 girls and one young man! The exam went well, most students received high marks.

A year ago, I had the privilege of officiating the wedding of two of our students, Shovkat and Manzura. A year has passed. And so, on Sunday, **May 26th**, during the morning service, I gladly prayed for the blessing of their little daughter, Esmeira, who was born only a few weeks ago. Despite the challenges posed by the birth of a child in a family, Shovkat and Manzura successfully completed their studies at the university this spring. Three years ago, each of them came to Moldova, not knowing one another. They came from different countries - from Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. And now they are leaving Moldova, having received a higher education here, and being husband and wife and having a daughter. Truly, the Lord richly blessed their time in Moldova.



After completing the blessing prayer



M20 group before the exam

On **May 27**, an exam was held in group M20, in which those who are planning to participate in missionary service are trained. In this group, the demographic situation is different from S22. In the M20 group there are eight boys and two girls. This group also successfully passed the exam in my subject.



During the exam in group M20

The most important event during the study at the university for students is the defense of graduation papers at the end of their studies. On May 29, the diploma works were defended in the M20 group. I was the supervisor of two students in this group. Of course, I was worried about how the defense of my students would go. They did not disappoint – the defense was successful.





Joyful students of the M20 group with members of the examination committee after defending their theses

Nina and I sincerely thank everyone who remembers us in their prayers before God. We need it. We especially need prayers for our health. Unfortunately, age not only adds experience and wisdom, but also health issues. Therefore, we will appreciate your prayers for our physical health.

Let this Scripture be a word of encouragement for each of us: ***“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart”*** (Hebrews 12: 1-3).

God bless each of you richly!

Yours in Christ,

Vyacheslav and Nina Tsvirinko











